Objectives of National Renewal Fund

3143. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of workers of public sector undertakings rendered surplus during 1992 and 1993;

(b) whether a National Renewal Fund was set up by Government;

(c) if so, what is the basic objective in setting up the fund; and

(d) what percentage of the surplus workers are likely to be benefited have been benefited under the National Renewal Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The National Renewal Fund (NRF) was set up by Government on February 3, 1992. The basic objective in setting up the NRF is to protect the interest of workers affected by technological upgradation and modernisation of Indian Industry. The NRF would inter-alia provide for workers compensation payments and for their retraining, redeployment and counselling. In the first instance, assistance from the NRF was provided for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings. Rs. 829.66 crores in 1992-93 and Rs. 830 crores in 1993-94 have been allocated for the purpose. According to the reports received from the Central PSUs, 38531 employees availed of VRS in 1992-93 and 24344 workers in 1993-94 (as on 28-2-1994).

An additional amount of Rs. 140.05 crores has also been provided for workers compensation package in the event of closure/rehabilitation and for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in State Public Sector Undertakings. A sum of Rs. 50 crores has been made available for workers' counselling and retraining and for Area Regeneration Schemes, in the financial year 1993-94. Six pilot projects have been approved for the purpose of worker retraining and redeployment.

Scheme to boost growth in SSI Units

3144. SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated some scheme to boost growth production by Small Scale Industrial Units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures ensuring upgradation of technology to create an Information and Resources Centre and to implement some recommendations of Nayak Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the measures would bring some fruitful results to strengthen the economy of country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The policy measure for promoting and strengthening small scale and tiny enterprises announced on 6-8-91 contains steps to boost growth and production, employment and exports by small scale industrial units These measures, inter alia include equity participation in SSI units by large industrial units up to 24 per cent, adequate credit to small scale sector, a new scheme of integrated infrastructural development to facilitate location of industries in rural and backward areas, an act, viz interest on the delayed payments to ensure prompt payment to small scale unit, continuation of reservation of items for SSI Sector, de-regulation, de-bureaucratisation and simplification of rules and procedures, etc.

(c) and (d) The measures taken to upgrade technology are: